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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Chemical Works, National Corporation,
in Sokolov

NO. OF PAGES 6

REFERENCES:

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Chemical Works, National Corporation, in Sokolov N 15-11, E 12-38/ produced calcium carbide, ferrochromium, calcium cyanamide, borax, formic acid, potassium chlorate, soot, boric acid, oxalic acid, potassium oxalate, and sodium perborate. The plant was built by the then United Chemical Works in 1916 and remained in their possession until October 1938. From that date until the end of World War II the plant was a part of the then Chemische Werke Aussig-Falkenau, a property of IG Farben. After the war the plant was returned to the United Chemical Works and became subordinate through that organization to the Czechoslovak Chemical Works, National Corporation. Starting in January 1950 the plant became an independent enterprise directly subordinate to the Ministry of Chemical Industry. For the plant location, see Annex A; for the plant layout, see Annex B.
2. The original production equipment of the Sokolov Works was from Germany and Switzerland; it was very well maintained. Dr. REGNER, the first post-war manager of the plant, declared in 1945 that no renovations of the equipment or of the installations would be needed in the near future. The plant was not bombed or otherwise damaged during World War II. The equipment for the electrolysis process was of Swiss origin. The plant laboratories were normal industrial laboratories and they were very well equipped. There were eight electric furnaces of 8,000 kw. each, all of them of German origin. However, since 1945 only five or six furnaces have been in operation because of a shortage of electricity. Electricity was supplied by a power station located within the plant area. The power station was owned by the plant until 1945, when it was taken out of the plant's jurisdiction and nationalized. This was very inconvenient for the plant, because the power station

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now had to supply other consumers also, and its current supply to the plant was therefore limited and enabled the plant to operate, as of 1952, only at about 80% of its capacity.

tion would not have changed. The plant's equipment for steel production was built during World War II, but the construction was interrupted by the end of the war and was finally completed sometime after 1948. The plant was supplied with lignite from the Jiri Mine, carried by an overhead car conveyor system. The Jiri Mine was the largest mine in the Sokolov area and had more than 2,000 miners. The mine was owned by the plant until 1945 when it was nationalized and made subordinate to the Sokolov Mines. Aside from the shortage of electric current, the plant had no special production difficulties.

3. a. The production of calcium carbide used 1,350 tn. of carbon electrodes yearly. These electrodes were 450 x 500 x 2,200 mm. in size. About 50 kg. of electrodes were needed for the production of one ton of carbide. Coke used for calcium carbide was delivered from the Ostrava Region. Lime and limestone were delivered from Beroun N 49-57, E 14-057.

b. The production of ferrochromium used 350 tn. of carbon electrodes of 450 x 500 x 2,200 mm. size, and 1,000 tn. of chromium ore yearly. This chromium ore was imported from the USSR Caucasian beds and was exported by SojuzPromExport, Moscow. The purchase price paid by Chemapol was 2,000 crowns per ton, dry weight, on the basis of 48% Cr₂O₃, franco railroad freight car, Cerna pri Cope N 48-26, E 22-06. Before World War II the Sokolov Chemical Works used 2,000 tn. of chromium ore yearly in the production of ferrochromium. Ferrosilicon was also produced by the plant formerly, but since the end of World War II ferrosilicon was produced only in the Novaky Chemical Works National Corporation, Handlova Plant N 48-44, E 18-467. Production of ferrovanadium, which also took place in the Sokolov Plant before World War II, has not yet been resumed in Sokolov or in any other Czechoslovak plant.

c. Eight thousand tons of the total yearly production of calcium carbide at this plant was used in the production of calcium cyanamide. Further, 17 tn. of carbon electrodes were used yearly in that production. (These electrodes were called "Azotation" electrodes.)

d. Carbon electrodes for use in the Sokolov Works both for carbide and ferrochromium production were imported by Chemapol, about 1,200 tn. from the former Siemens-Plania Works at Ratibor, Poland, and the remaining 500 tn. from the former Siemens-Plania Works at Berlin-Lichtenberg, Germany. The purchase price for Polish electrodes was 8,150 crowns a ton and for German electrodes 7,800 crowns per ton. In both cases, the price was franco railroad freight car, Czechoslovak border station. The selling price, paid by the Sokolov Works, was 9,545 crowns a ton franco railroad freight car Sokolov for electrodes of both origins. The 17 tn. of carbon electrodes used in production of calcium cyanamide were also imported from Poland. The purchase price was 5,296 crowns a ton. The selling price was 6,416 crowns a ton, franco railroad freight car Sokolov. Further, 25 tn. of carbon electrodes, 130 mm. (diameter) x 100 mm., were used yearly in the production of calcium carbide and of ferrochromium for tapping of blast furnaces. They were of Polish origin and the purchase price was 11,250 crowns per ton; the selling price was 12,842 a ton, franco railroad freight car Sokolov. All the Polish electrodes mentioned above were exported by Cziech, a Polish export monopoly, located at Jasna Street #10, Warsaw.

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e. Six hundred tons of high percentage potassium salt (98%) was used yearly for production of potassium chlorate [REDACTED] From 25X1A 12 to 15 tn. of graphite electrodes, 25 x 150 x 770 mm. in size, was used yearly in that production. These electrodes were imported from Ce-Ce Graphitwerke, Zurich, Switzerland.

4. I do not know the production figures for the other products of the Sokolov Works. All the ferrochromium and calcium cyanamide produced at Sokolov were used for domestic needs. Some carbide was exported. [REDACTED] Some formic acid was also exported. Planned Chemapol exports of this item for 1953 amounted to 1,200 tn. 25X1A destined mostly for Areas V and VII [REDACTED]. I cannot remember what quantities of other products from the Sokolov Works were exported. The Chemapol 1953 Export-Import Plan does not provide for them under a special title but includes them in grouped titles only, such as acids or various chemical goods.

5. The Sokolov Chemical Works had more than 1,000 employees, including Germans and prisoners from the Sokolov prison. The prisoners attended to the most difficult jobs such as work at the furnaces or in the carbide mill. The Sokolov Chemical Works was one of the Czechoslovak Chemical plants with the highest percentage of CP members. PEROUTKA, about 35 years old, was Manager of the plant. Ing. CERNY, a chemist, was Production Manager. Dr. TOMES, a chemist, was head of electrolysis. All of them were reliable CP members. (The first so-called worker-manager in the chemical industry was appointed in the Sokolov Works. His name was ZURKA and he was a former worker in the plant. ZURKA, later on, became manager of the Usti nad Labem Chemical Works.)

6. The plant's security measures were the usual security measures applied by all Czechoslovak chemical works [REDACTED] 25X1A. The plant had a militia and a firemen corps of its own. Firemen extinguishers were distributed throughout the plant. Water hydrants were also located throughout the factory area and there was also a water reservoir 10 x 25 x 3 m. in size. This reservoir was in the open and centrally located. There were several bomb shelters in a nearby hill (I do not know the exact location). These shelters had a total capacity of 200 men. The plant was not lighted up at night.

Annexes:

A. Chemical Works, n.p., Sokolov Overlay on Map: Czechoslovakia
3949/2W, M872, 1:25,000

B. Plant Layout of the Chemical Works, National Corporation,
in Sokolov

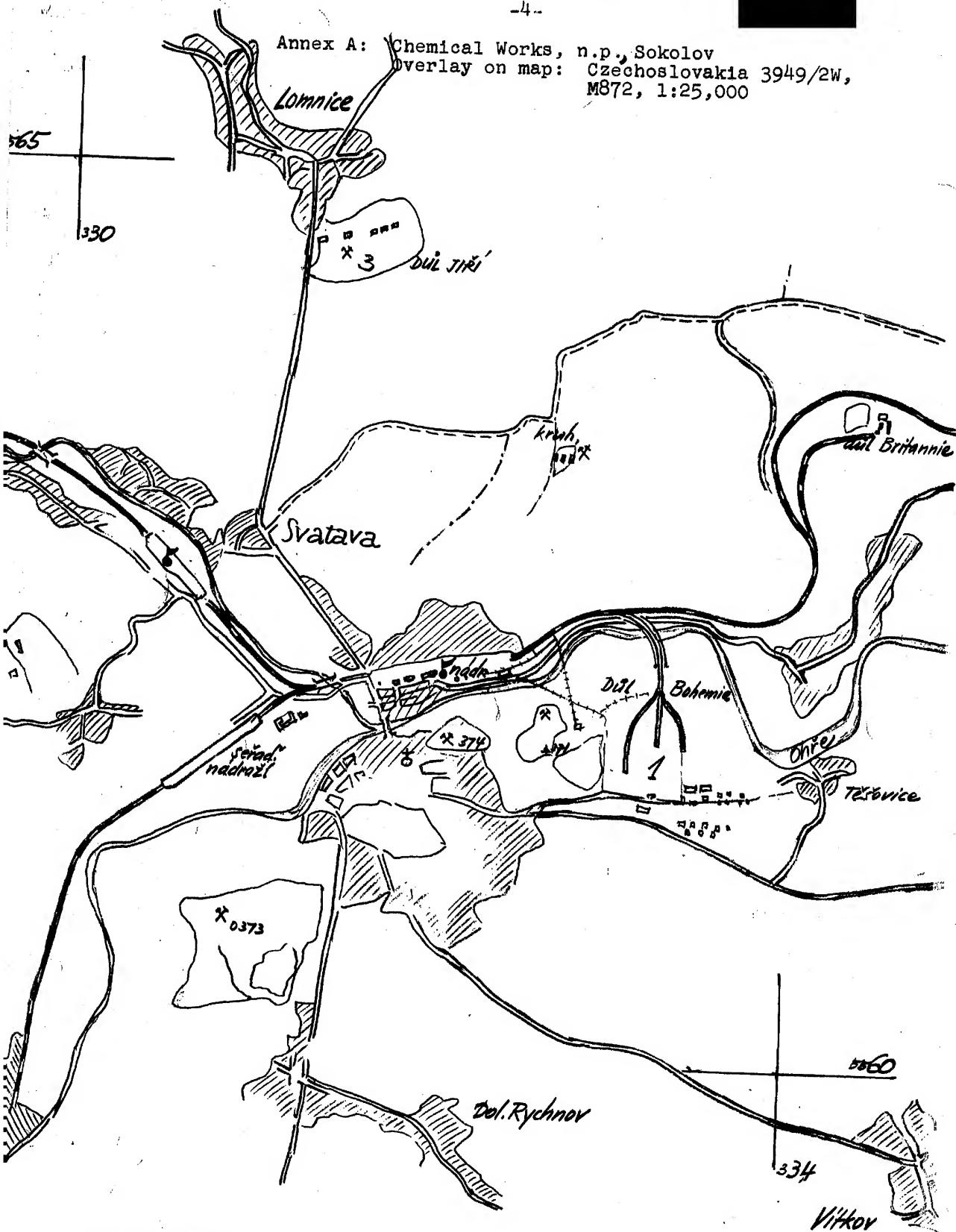
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Annex A: Chemical Works, n.p., Sokolov
 Overlay on map: Czechoslovakia 3949/2W,
 M872, 1:25,000



1. Chemical Works, n.p., Sokolov

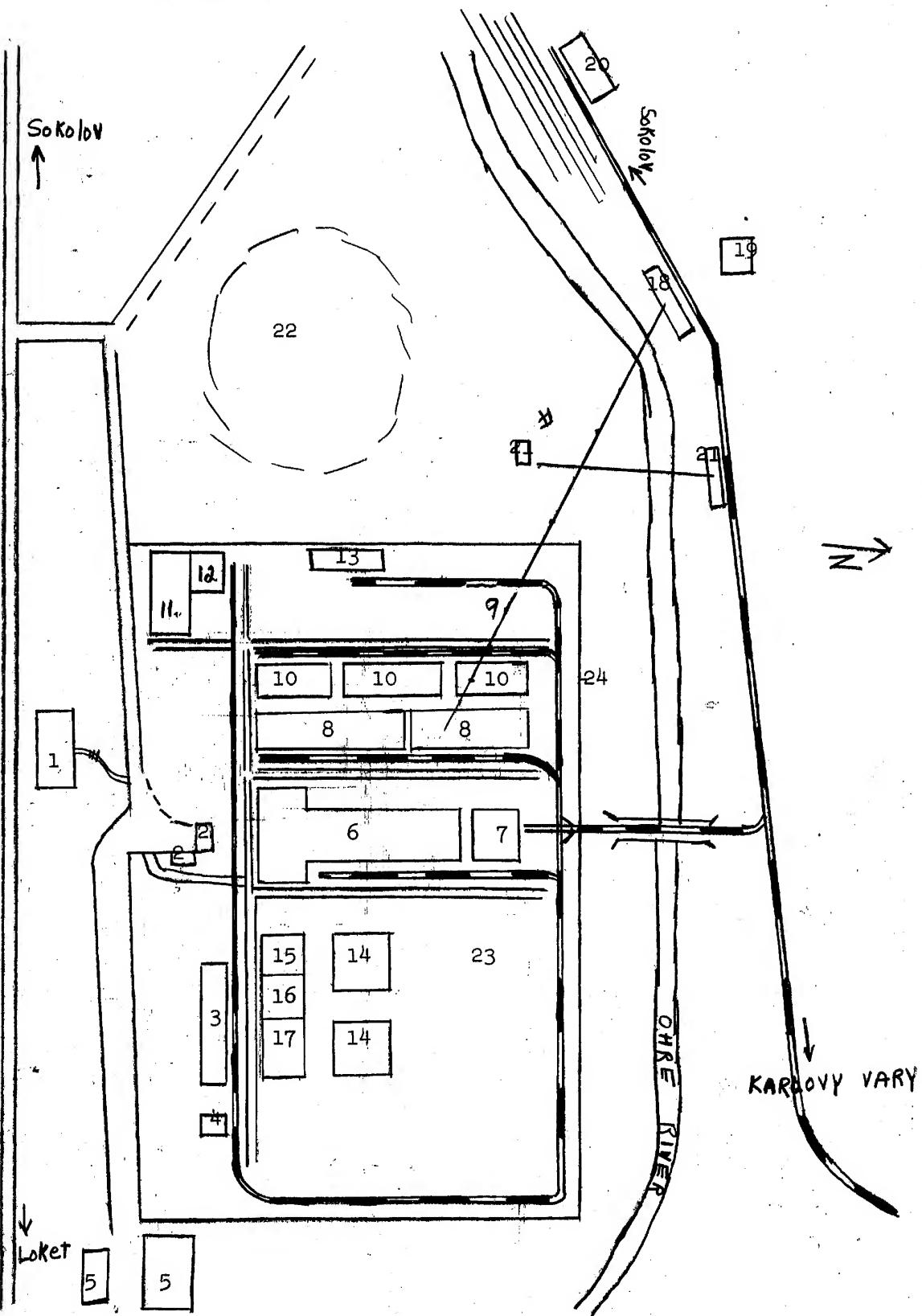
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Annex B: Plant Layout of the Chemical Works, National Corporation, in Sokolov



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Annex B

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1. Administration Building (Two stories high; the highest building of the plant)
2. Gate and Gatekeeper House
3. Cafeteria (Wooden building and the lowest building in the area; accommodates 120 persons)
4. Garage: for ambulance and for fire engines
5. Farm Buildings: belonging to the plant
6. Power Plant and Furnaces
7. Carbide Mill
8. Raw Materials Storage
9. Overhead Conveyor
10. Storage for Finished Products
11. Production of Borax and Production of Boric Acid
12. Potassium Chlorate Electrolysis
13. Formic Acid Storage
14. Cooling Towers and Smokestack (the cooling towers were approximately 30 m. high)
15. Storage
16. Maintenance Department
17. Motor Car Repair Shop and Garage
- 18 and 19. Jiri Mines
20. Sokolov Railroad Station
21. Bohemia Mine: with an overhead conveyor
22. Slack Pile
23. Coal Storage
24. Fence: surrounding plant areas; of brick and wood construction.

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